



House of Representatives

File No. 809

General Assembly

January Session, 2019

(Reprint of File No. 119)

House Bill No. 6997
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 25, 2019

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION
CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES AND RESOURCES
TO STUDENTS, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) Not later than December
2 1, 2019, the Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department, in
3 consultation with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic
4 Violence, shall compile information concerning services and resources
5 available to victims of domestic violence and provide such information
6 to the Department of Education. Such information shall include, but
7 need not be limited to, (1) referrals available to counseling and
8 supportive services, including, but not limited to, the Safe at Home
9 program administered by the Office of the Secretary of the State,
10 shelter services, medical services, domestic abuse hotlines, legal
11 counseling and advocacy, mental health care and financial assistance,
12 and (2) procedures to voluntarily and confidentially identify eligibility
13 for referrals to such counseling and supportive services. The Office of
14 Victim Services within the Judicial Department shall annually review

15 such information and inform the Department of Education of any
16 necessary revisions.

17 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Department of Education
18 shall publish the information compiled and provided pursuant to
19 subsection (a) of this section on the Internet web site of the
20 department. If informed of any necessary revisions by the Office of
21 Victim Services within the Judicial Department, the Department of
22 Education shall revise such published information.

23 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2020, and each school
24 year thereafter, the Department of Education shall disseminate the
25 information published pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to each
26 local and regional board of education. Each local and regional board of
27 education shall require the provision of such information to any (1)
28 student or parent or guardian of a student who expresses to a school
29 employee, as defined in section 10-222d of the general statutes, that
30 such student or parent or guardian or a person residing with such
31 student or parent or guardian does not feel safe at home due to
32 domestic violence, and (2) parent or guardian of a student who
33 authorizes the transfer of such student's education records to another
34 school.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires the State Department of Education to publish and disseminate various information related to domestic violence services, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as the agency have the expertise and resources necessary to do so.

House "A" makes various procedural and clarifying changes that do not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6997 (as amended by House "A")*****AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES AND RESOURCES TO STUDENTS, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services (OVS), in consultation with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, to (1) compile information on domestic violence victim services and resources and (2) provide the information to the State Department of Education (SDE) by December 1, 2019.

The bill requires SDE to publish the information it receives from OVS on its website by January 1, 2020. It also requires (1) OVS to review the information annually and inform SDE of any necessary revisions and (2) SDE to revise the information on that basis.

Under the bill, SDE must also disseminate the above information to local and regional school boards each school year starting with the 2020-2021 school year. Each school board must in turn require that the information be provided to any (1) student or student's parent or guardian who expresses to a school employee that the student, parent, guardian, or a person residing in the home does not feel safe because of domestic violence and (2) student's parent or guardian who authorizes the transfer of his or her education records to another school.

*House Amendment "A" makes OVS responsible for compiling and annually reviewing the information that SDE must publish on its website in the underlying bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES AND RESOURCES

The information OVS provides to SDE under the bill must include:

1. available referrals to counseling and supportive services, including the secretary of the state’s Safe at Home Program, shelter and medical services, domestic abuse hotlines, legal counseling and advocacy, mental health care, and financial assistance, and
2. procedures to voluntarily and confidentially identify referral eligibility for such counseling and services.

BACKGROUND

School Employee

By law, a “school employee” is:

1. a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator or superintendent, guidance or school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional, or coach employed by a local or regional school board or working in a public elementary, middle, or high school or
2. any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle, or high school pursuant to a contract with the local or regional school board (CGS § 10-222d).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable
 Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/07/2019)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable
 Yea 32 Nay 0 (04/08/2019)